

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Concord Church, near Safford, Dallas County, Ala.,

September 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1891.

OFFICERS.

W. B. JACKSON, Moderator.....	McKinley, Ala.	
JOHN E. HECKER, Clerk.....	Linden,	"
W. F. SETZLER, Treasurer.....	Safford,	"

The next session of this Association will be held with Bethlehem Church, at Octagon, Marengo County, on Friday before the third Sabbath in August, 1892.

MINUTES.

The seventy-first annual session of Bethel Baptist Association convened with Concord church, near Safford, in Dallas county, Ala., on Thursday, September 17th, 1891, and in the absence of the former Moderator, was called to order by the Clerk at 10 a. m.

Prayer by Brother W. K. Thomas.

In the absence of the appointee, Elder W. A. Parker, by request, delivered the introductory sermon from 1 Chron. 22:16, "Arise, therefore, and be doing."

Adjourned until 2 p. m.

Reassembled at 2 p. m. Elder J. T. Caine was elected temporary Moderator.

Elders W. A. Parker and T. W. Hart were appointed to read the letters, and the churches were represented by the following messengers:

Aimwell—S. E. Smith, J. W. Mayton and A. W. Vice.
Bethel—W. B. Jackson, George B. Fields and J. W. Buck.
Bethlehem—W. K. Thomas.
Beaver Creek—W. F. Johnson.
Canaan—F. M. Dunaway and W. J. Dunaway.
Concord—J. T. Caine, W. F. Setzler and L. F. Blalock.
Flatwoods Chapel—S. C. Parker.
Goose Creek—S. H. Sealy and T. H. Tucker.
Judson—J. D. Smith, J. G. Newton and W. J. Etheridge.
Linden—J. E. Hecker.
Nanafalia—A. G. Westbrook.
Pisgah—W. B. Shamberger and J. T. Nettles.
Rehoboth—D. M. A. Dansby.
Shiloh—S. W. Compton.
Union Grove—J. A. Huckabee.

A motion by Elder G. W. Webb to elect permanent officers by ballot was adopted, which resulted as follows: For Moderator, W. B. Jackson; for Clerk, John E. Hecker; for Treasurer, W. F. Setzler.

Petitionary letters were then called for, and Catherine church was received and her messengers welcomed by the Moderator.

Elder W. A. Parker, of South Bethel, Elder T. W. Hart and Brother O. L. Woodfin, of Cahaba, and Brother G. H. Averett, of Shelby Associations, were welcomed as corresponding messengers.

On motion, the order of business of the previous session was adopted, as follows:

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Thursday, September 17.

- 1 Appointment of committees to report during the session,
- 2 Report of Committee on Home Missions.
- 3 Report of Committee on Religious State of Churches.
- 4 Report of Committee on Colored Missions.

Friday, September 18.

- 5 Report of Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers.
- 6 Report of Committee on Foreign Missions.
- 7 Report of Committee on ALABAMA BAPTIST and Foreign Mission Journal.
- 8 Report of Committee on Ministerial Education.

Saturday, September 19.

- 9 Report of Committee on State Missions.
- 10 Report of Committee on Colportage and Bible Work.
- 11 Report of Committee on Temperance.

Sunday, September 20.

- 12 Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.
- 13 Report of Committee on Finance.
- 14 Report of Treasurer.

It is recommended that the morning session begin at 9:30 and adjourn at 12:30 o'clock, and the evening session at 2:30 and adjourn at 4 o'clock.

The Moderator announced the following committees to report during the session:

On Finance—Joe Lambert, A. G. Westbrook and W. K. Thomas.

On Nominations, Documents and Requests—J. T. Caine, J. D. Smith and S. H. Sealy.

On motion, Elder T. W. Hart, Elder J. T. Caine and Brother W. F. Setzler were appointed a committee on Religious Services.

The report of the committee on Home Missions was laid over until to-morrow, and Elder J. T. Caine was appointed to report on same.

The reports on Religious State of Churches and Colored Missions were also laid over until to-morrow, and Brothers L. F. Blacklock, S. W. Compton and George B. Fields were appointed to prepare a report on the former, and Brothers J. W. Buck and J. A. Huckabee a report on the latter.

On motion of Elder J. M. Kailin, the order of business was suspended, so as to permit the Moderator to call up each report and supply the places of absentees. The Moderator thereupon made the following announcement of committees:

Aged and Infirm Ministers—S. E. Smith and S. H. Sealy.

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST and Foreign Mission Journal—J. M. Kailin.

Bible and Colportage—W. F. Johnson.

The Association then adjourned until 9:30 a. m. Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Reassembled, with prayer by Elder W. H. DeWitt.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Dr. D. I. Purser, Financial Secretary of Howard College and representative of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Bap-

tist Convention; Dr. S. W. Averett, President of the Judson; Elder W. B. Crumpton, Secretary of the State Mission Board, and Elder W. H. DeWitt, of South Bethel Association, were welcomed by the Association.

On motion, 11 o'clock was fixed as a special hour to hear Dr. Purser and Dr. Averett in the interest of their respective educational institutions.

The report on Colored Missions was read and discussion had by Elders T. W. Hart, W. B. Crumpton, W. A. Parker, J. T. Caine and J. M. Kailin, and, after amendment, was adopted as follows:

REPORT ON COLORED MISSIONS.

The question should no longer be asked, "Should the colored race be Christianized?" But the best method of prosecuting this work is what we need. Past experience has demonstrated that they are susceptible of moral and intellectual training. They are now citizens of our common country—our door neighbors; and their moral and religious elevation is, in the opinion of your committee, a necessity. It is impossible to make them come up to the requirements of citizens without being Christianized. No race of people have ever felt the responsibility of being their brother's keeper, except those who have first felt the sweet and gentle influences of God's pardoning love. We would not be understood as detracting from Home or Foreign Missions when we say that there are thousands of ignorant heathens at our very doors who are being led captive by the Devil, at his will, by so-called ministers of the negro race, who themselves need evangelizing. The command of the Captain of our salvation is, "Go, teach all creatures." Are we not dodging our duty when we fail to give them the Bread of Life? It may be urged, "What is the use of an attempt to instruct them when they do not desire it?" We answer, "What is the use to preach the Gospel to the heathen world, or to poor dead sinners around us?" We urge our pastors and laymen to do all in their power to instruct the colored ministers in Christian doctrines and duties, and, for the sake of our blessed Lord, who made Himself a servant and died to save all mankind, let us no longer withhold from them every effort in our power to evangelize them.

Fraternally submitted,

S. P. JACKSON, Chairman.

Dr. Averett then addressed the Association in the interest of the Judson.

The order of business was suspended and the report on Ministerial and General Education was made a special order for 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The report on Home Missions was read by Elder J. M. Kailin, and, on motion, consideration of the same was deferred until the reading of the report on State Missions. The report on State Missions was then read and consideration postponed until 2 o'clock.

The committee on Religious Services announced that Elder W. A. Parker would preach at Safford to-night, and that Elder W. B. Crumpton would preach at Concord church on next Sabbath at 11 a. m.

Recessed until 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Reassembled at 2 o'clock, with prayer by Elder J. M. Kailin.

The Mission Reports were then discussed by Elder W. B. Crumpton, Dr. D. I. Purser, Elders J. M. Kailin and J. T. Caine, and, on motion, the mission question was laid over for further discussion on to-morrow.

A committee of three, composed of Elder J. M. Kailin, F. M. Dunaway and W. K. Thomas, was appointed to apportion to each church the amount of \$550.00, asked for by the State Board, and also, when ascertained, the amount asked for Ministerial Education.

On motion, the report on The Alabama Baptist and Foreign Mission Journal was changed so as to read, "Report on Religious Literature." Elder J. M. Kailin then read the report on Religious Literature, which, after being discussed by Dr. Purser and Elders J. T. Caine and W. A. Parker, was adopted as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

The servants of God are using the "printers' ink" to great advantage for the Master's glory. The Baptists of the South are making rapid strides in the line of education and now have men of world-wide reputation for scholarship. The writings of these men are being extensively circulated and should have still greater circulation. Through the medium of the books and papers of our denomination we are brought in close contact and sympathy with the great religious movements of the day. The homes of Baptists should be supplied with books and papers devoted to Christian work as carried on by us in obedience to Divine commands. The Bible must always be first. It is the sword of the Holy Spirit.

We urge all to read our State paper—THE ALABAMA BAPTIST. Without it we cannot be fully informed on the work in Alabama. If more than one paper can be taken, we recommend The Western Recorder, Louisville, Ky. It is of great value to us because of its sound doctrinal utterances on all leading religious questions of our time. Among its contributors are found many of the leading men of our denomination.

The year 1892 being the Missionary Centennial year, Missionary papers should be read. The Foreign Mission Journal, Richmond, Va., costs fifty cents a year and is a good monthly magazine. Our Home Field, Atlanta, Ga., is the organ of the Home Mission Board and costs fifty cents a year. The State Mission Quarterly, Marion, Ala., costs only ten cents a year.

For our Sunday schools we recommend the Kind Words series of lesson helps. These will be much improved next year.

J. M. KAILIN, Chairman.

The committee on Religious State of the Churches made its report, which was adopted without discussion, as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS STATE OF CHURCHES.

As far as we can ascertain by the letters, some of the churches are in a healthy condition, spiritually. Letters thus far report sixty-three by baptism since the last meeting of this body. While some churches have had gracious revivals and glorious gatherings of precious souls, there are others that seem to be at ease; and, possibly, some are enjoying a peaceful sleep. So, to take an average, they are not as healthy as we would like for them to be.

L. F. BLALOCK, Chairman.

Adjourned until 9:30 a. m. Saturday morning.

SATURDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Reassembled at 9:30 o'clock. Devotional exercises conducted by Eld. W. H. DeWitt.

Minutes of yesterday read and adopted after being corrected.

Rev. Elijah Bell was welcomed by the Association and Bro. R. B. Hare, of Selma Association, was welcomed as a corresponding messenger.

The report on Aged and Infirm Ministers was read by Bro. S. E. Smith and discussed by Eld. W. B. Crumpton; and on motion, all funds in the hands of the Finance Committee for this purpose was ordered turned over to Eld. W. H. DeWitt for Eld. Nathan Thomas.

The Mission reports laid over from yesterday were taken from the table and fully discussed by Elds. W. B. Crumpton, J. T. Caine and T. W. Hart, after which the several reports were adopted as follows :

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, in its last report, shows that while much has been done in the past decade, the rapid development and the prospective greatness of our Southern country call for more vigorous efforts and extensive labors in the home field. The board is publishing a small paper, *Our Home Field*, through the medium of which it is disseminating the intelligence necessary concerning its work. More information is needed by our people, to inspire them with greater missionary zeal. More enthusiasm in Foreign Missions means greater support for Home Missions. Expansion, not contraction, should be our motto in the entire field of missions.

Among the foreign population of our large Southern cities much has been done. This is slow work, but sure, and in the end will prove profitable. In the five civilized tribes of Indians there are as many baptized believers as in any community on the globe. The Levering school has been turned over to the Indians at their own request. Something has been done for the negroes, but the board has been unable to do what it has desired for lack of means. The race question, it believes, could be forever settled by a liberal expenditure of money in evangelizing the negroes of the South. In the Island of Cuba our missionaries have suffered many persecutions during the past year. They have been fined and imprisoned, but their zeal continues unabated.

The board has increased its missionary force the past year, employing 406 workers. The baptisms were 5,349; added to mission churches, 9,987; churches constituted, 244; Sunday-schools organized, 424; houses of worship built, 143.

Last year Alabama contributed to this board \$5,552.96, and this year we are asked to give \$6,500.00. Let our Association do more for this board and the glory of the Master.

J. M. KAILIN, Ch'n.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

It is now more than eighteen hundred years since our Lord—the Messiah—gave his marching order to his church, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." There are thousands of heathens more in the world now than at that time.

Question—Was the gospel intended to convert the world to Christ? However this question may be answered, one thing is certain—our Lord intended

that his gospel should be preached to all nations, and that it should continue to be preached until it becomes a witness for the truth to all nations. Nearly all the world is missionary ground to-day; for I hold that wherever the Baptist denomination of Christians—the true witnesses on earth for Christ—have not a self-sustaining interest, that is missionary ground.

The hardest missionary fields are those of Papal lands, civilized heathen China and dark benighted Africa not excepted; nor can historical Protestant Christianity be wholly ignored by the churches of Christ as missionary grounds.

But if we allow that in all so-called Christian lands the gospel has been preached as a witness, then there is greater demand for missionary labors in foreign fields, *i. e.*, in heathen lands, than in all other lands combined. For the Christian's blessed hope, viz, the second coming of our Lord, will not be realized until this same blessed gospel of man's salvation shall have been preached as a witness to all nations; for then, and not until then, shall the end of the present dispensation come, and the glorious millennial reign of our Lord on earth shall be ushered in by his second coming to receive the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession; for unto this end the Son of God poured out his life unto death according to the terms of the covenant of redemption. And this very idea should be an all-sufficient incentive to every child of God who is watching and waiting for his Lord, to exert all his energies and consecrate all his means to the interest of Foreign Missions.

Now, what a herculean work lies before our churches! And what a fearful waste of time and talents and money not used in co-operative work upon the part of the churches in the executive discharge of this most important and most glorious commission of our Lord to preach the gospel to all nations and teach them to observe all things whatsoever he has commanded. Remember, my brethren, it was his last command, uttered under the most peculiarly solemn and interesting circumstances of his ascension to the mediatorial Throne, whence we may regard him as looking down upon us to-day with all the solicitude of a divine Prince and Savior, to see what we are doing and what we are going to do in fulfillment of his all-important command.

What remains to be done and what has been done for the evangelization of the heathen would, may be seen by a little item quoted by the Baptist and Reflector, of July 9, last, from the Missionary Review of June, 1891. It is as follows: "In the heathen world there are about 1,000,000,000 souls; 30,000,000 a year go into eternity without God. Our Lord said, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.' Out of 35,000,000 Protestant church members only about 6,000 have obeyed this command—one in every 5,800. Evangelized 116,000,000; unevangelized, 1,000,000,000. The field is the world. Whatsoever he saith unto you do it. O, ye that love the Lord and the souls of men! Know ye that Christian charity is the fairest, purest gem the world has ever seen. Then let your charity abound in works of beneficence towards the millions of far away heathen that are without hope and without God in the world. And so by the consecration of all your means to the preaching of a witnessing gospel to all nations, you will hasten the consummation of the devout Christian now waiting and longing and crying, 'Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.'"

J. T. CAINE, Ch'n.

• REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Setting aside the ministerial work, no other agency has been more potent in building up our Master's cause throughout this country than the State Mission work. About fifteen years since, when it was in its infancy, with what anxiety and interest did we watch its growth. Many pastors, churches and associations move so slowly and hesitatingly in unison with the board; but still the grand work goes on and on until the whole State is aroused and feels very perceptibly its powerful influence.

What instrument, in our hands, has been more effectual in encouraging the pastors throughout the State in building churches, aiding weak churches to have regular preaching, the result of which is now paying an

hundred fold? This work has encouraged the ministers, churches and associations to aid young men in obtaining an education, and thus prepare themselves to work in the Master's vineyard and for the extension of his kingdom. What has been more effectual in developing the missionary spirit, in giving liberally to Home and Foreign fields?

Well may our worthy Secretary report to our State Convention, that we have cause for gratitude to God for his blessings upon our work, and that it had been a year of uninterrupted prosperity for the mission cause in Alabama. There was the last Conventional year \$20,265 passed through the hands of the Corresponding Secretary for all mission purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

W. K. THOMAS, Ch'n.

The report on Ministerial and General Education was read by Eld. J. M. Kailin and ably discussed by Dr. D. I. Purser, after which a collection in cash and notes amounting to \$524.50 was taken for Howard College. The report was then adopted as follows:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

This is a subject of vast importance to us. Rapid progress is being made by the people of the State. New schools are being established every year. High schools of excellent character may be found in nearly every county. Colleges and seminaries are receiving a liberal patronage. The Baptists of Alabama have two schools of which we can justly be proud—Howard College at East Lake, and the Judson Female Institute at Marion. Both of these schools, through their trials and struggles of the past few years, have been prominently before the denomination and are to-day in the front rank as educational institutions. They deserve our support in every possible way.

The growing need of an educated ministry in the State has stimulated our people to greater exertions in this line. The Board of Ministerial Education, of which G. W. Ellis, Montgomery, Ala., is Secretary and Treasurer, receives contributions to aid in educating worthy young men in the ministry. We urge our churches to do all in their power for this board. The Ministers Institute at East Lake, holding a session of one month each summer, is doing a good work, and our ministers should attend it. Let the churches help their pastors in doing this.

J. M. KAILIN, Ch'n.

The committee on Nominations, Documents and Requests made its report. An amendment substituting Friday before the third Sabbath in August, instead of September, was adopted, and the report, as amended, was adopted as follows:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS, DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

Your committee recommend that Eld. E. H. Perry preach the introductory sermon at our next Association, Eld. J. M. Kailin, alternate; Eld. W. H. DeWitt will preach the annual missionary sermon, Eld. W. A. Parker, alternate. The next meeting of this body be held with Bethlehem church, at Octagon, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. on Friday before the third Sabbath in August, 1892; and that Eld. J. T. Caine be selected as delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, Eld. W. V. Vice as alternate; and that volunteers be called for to represent this body in the Baptist State Convention.

J. D. SMITH, Ch'n.

The following brethren volunteered as delegates to represent Bethel Association in the Baptist State Convention, which meets in Eufaula on November 5th: J. M. Kailin, G. W. Webb, J. T. Caine, W. B. Jackson, W. F. Setzler and Jno. E. Hecker.

APPORTIONMENT TO CHURCHES.

The committee on Apportionment for Missions and Ministerial Education reported as follows:

Churches.	Missions.	Min. Education.
Aimwell.....	\$ 15 00	\$ 5 00
Bethel.....	55 00	15 00
Bethlehem.....	20 00	5 00
Beaver Creek.....	15 00	10 00
Canaan.....	15 00	5 00
Catherine.....	15 00	5 00
Concord.....	50 00	14 00
Flatwood's Chapel.....	5 00	3 00
Goose Creek.....	10 00	5 00
Hills.....	20 00	5 00
Indian Springs.....	10 00	4 00
Judson.....	25 00	5 00
Linden.....	40 00	10 00
Myrtlewood.....	20 00	7 00
Nanafalia.....	40 00	10 00
Pisgah.....	10 00	5 00
Providence.....	4 00	1 00
Shiloh.....	20 00	5 00
Spring Hill.....	7 00	3 00
Union Grove.....	10 00	3 00
Total.....	\$ 406 00	\$125 00

J. M. KAILIN,
F. M. DUNAWAY,
W. K. THOMAS,
Committee.

The regular order was suspended and Eld. W. B. Crumpton, by request, addressed the Association on Woman's Work, paying a deserved tribute to the noble women of Bethel church, who have accomplished such grand results. The following resolution was then adopted:

Whereas, Mrs. M. A. Lee, of McKinley church, has been appointed by the Central Committee on Woman's Work, Vice-President for Bethel Association; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we recommend the churches to organize woman's aid or missionary societies, and that the pastors encourage the sisters to exert themselves to raise money by every laudable means for benevolent and missionary purposes, reporting the same through their respective churches.

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the churches be requested to forward all contributions for Ministerial Education to G. W. Ellis, Montgomery, Ala., and that we co-operate fully with that board; also,

That the Moderator appoint three brethren who shall be known as the committee on Ministerial Examination, whose recommendation shall be forwarded to the Board of Ministerial Education and aid requested for the brother recommended; said committee to meet at such times and places as may be determined by its members, and shall report at each meeting of the Association.

Under the latter resolution, J. M. Kailin, W. K. Thomas and J. B. Perkins were appointed as said committee.

The report on Bible and Colportage Work was read and adopted, as follows :

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

Your committee would report that while we consider this work of very great importance, yet it seems to be almost impossible to get our churches to realize the fact. The interest in this work seems to fall short of any encouraging degree of permanency. It revives occasionally, flourishes for a short time, and again dies. We would urge this Association to endeavor to devise some permanent plan for the distribution of religious literature, for we feel that the general and regular distribution of religious and denominational literature is indeed a very fruitful factor in the religious and doctrinal education of our people; and surely the Bible work, which comprehends the circulation of the word of God, can not be considered by Baptists one of minor importance. We recommend that our pastors and churches purchase their Bibles, Hymn Books and other religious books and all Sunday-school literature from the Bible and Colportage Board at Opelika, J. B. Collier, secretary.

W. F. JOHNSON, Ch'n.

The report of the committee on Temperance was read by Eld. G. W. Webb, and ably presented by Eld. W. B. Crumpton, Dr. Purser and other brethren, and then adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We are staggered at a knowledge of the fact of the intemperance practiced by the people of the present day, when the Word of God says, "Be ye temperate in all things." The greatest monster seems to be that of intoxicating drink. We have appealed to our law-making powers with many an earnest petition for the suppression of the great monster. Many an earnest prayer has been directed to the throne of God for relief in this matter, and we thank God and take courage for the benefits and blessings already received. Yes, we look over the past with great gratitude, and we feel that we have every reason to look into the future with hope, expecting that the Lord will continue to bless and do great things for his people, and enable us soon to bind the curb of the monster demon and lead captivity captive and receive gifts for men. Yet we are taught that judgment must begin at the house of the Lord; and when we come to examine our own house we find crouched around many a Christian heart this great evil of dram-drinking, sending forth its poisonous fangs therein and sapping it of its Christian vital powers, robbing the churches of their social pleasures, their devotional services, and their financial duties. When this is the fact in our own association, no wonder we hear the cry of so many pastorless churches and churchless pastors. We have reason to believe that many of our members pay more for whisky than they do for the support of their pastor, blighting thereby that congenial love and that responsive throb that ought to be in the heart of every Christian. We therefore urge every church in this association to enforce such church discipline as will cut off from their fellowship all drunkenness and severely chastise the dram-drinkers.

G. W. WEBB, Ch'n.

In connection with this report the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we urge all the members of our churches to do all in their power, by vigilant effort, for the suppression of the liquor traffic, and that we urge the churches to take disciplinarian action with and exclude all members who aid or abet the liquor dealers by signing petitions or otherwise granting them the right to sell.

Adjourned to 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Reassembled at 9:30 o'clock.

Devotional exercises.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Bros. B. F. Ellis and Jno.^d E. Dunaway, of Selma Association, and J. A. Hanesworth, of Cahaba Association, were welcomed as corresponding messengers.

On motion, the Secretary of the State Board was requested to pay Eld. W. H. DeWitt the sum of \$17.00 out of the State Mission fund.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of this association be requested to recommend that the salary of Eld. G. W. Webb, as pastor of Flatwood's Chapel and Goose Creek churches, be supplemented to the amount of fifty dollars by the State Mission Board, if, in their judgment, they think it profitable.

Report of committee on Sabbath-schools was read by Bro. J. B. Perkins, and discussed by the Moderator, Eld. W. B. Crumpton, and other brethren, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Your committee feel so discouraged about the Sabbath-school work, as reported by the letters, that we are at a loss as how to report, when three-fifths of the churches have no schools at all, and those that have schools are smaller than for years. In 1888 there was reported 541 in Sabbath-schools, and the letters this session only report 292—a fearful loss. We are commanded to search the scriptures, and we know no better way to do this than to gather our children and our neighbors' children every Sabbath and teach them God's Word; and we know of no more powerful instrument for the salvation of mankind, except the preached Word.

The object of every Sabbath-school should be the salvation of each pupil, and in order that this high and holy object may be attained, it is important—yes, necessary, that the Superintendent be a prayerful, godly man—a man that each pupil can look to for advice and instruction in holy things; and each teacher should be prayerful and pious, and regular in attendance at school. Now, it is exceedingly hard to find a man to fill the Superintendent's office properly, and proper teachers are also hard to find; and I feel it is from improper teachers and superintendents that has caused this great falling off in our schools. And there is another cause that your committee thinks has been fruitful of evil consequences to the Sabbath-schools, and that is this: Our pastors do not take the interest in Sunday-schools that they should. I think every pastor should take a deep interest in the schools of his churches, and when doing pastoral work, speak a word for the Sabbath-school and urge the members to take part in the school; then be there Sunday morning in time to mix and mingle with the children, and then let him make such suggestions as he sees is needed, and let there be the most hearty co-operation between pastor, superintendent and teachers. We feel if this is done our schools will move up the coming year.

J. B. PERKINS, Ch'n.

On motion, the Treasurer was directed to pay over to the Clerk the amount sent up for minutes.

The Moderator then announced the following standing standing committees to report at the next session:

Home Missions—W. K. Thomas, G. B. Fields and S. W. Compton.
 State Missions—J. M. Kailin, F. M. Dunaway and G. W. Barkley.
 Foreign Missions—G. W. Webb, W. L. Walston and J. R. Holloman.
 Colored Missions—W. V. Vice, W. F. Setzler and W. W. Crocker.
 Aged and Infirm Ministers—A. G. Westbrook, S. B. Jackson and S. P. Tucker.
 Religious State of Churches—Joe Lambert, S. H. Sealy and S. P. Jackson.
 Ministerial and General Education—J. T. Caine, C. H. Miller and R. J. Grantham.
 Temperance—J. B. Perkins, R. B. Caine and J. W. Autrey.
 Bible and Colportage Work—W. B. Shamberger, G. M. Little and R. B. Reed.
 Sabbath-schools—S. G. Woolf, L. F. Blalock and J. B. Williams.
 Woman's Work—J. B. Doyle, G. S. Jackson and E. H. Perry.

Brother Joe Lambert was appointed a member of the Executive committee in place of Eld. I. A. White.

A resolution was adopted, tendering the thanks of the association to Concord church, for their hospitable entertainment during its session.

Eld. W. B. Crumpton then preached the Missionary sermon from the text, "Where the money goes," after which a collection of \$100.00 was taken for missions.

The Moderator then declared the association adjourned, to meet with Bethlehem church, at Octagon, Marengo county, at 10 o'clock a. m., on Friday before the third (3) Sunday in August, 1892.

W. B. JACKSON, MODERATOR.

JNO. E. HECKER, Clerk.

STATISTICS OF BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1891.

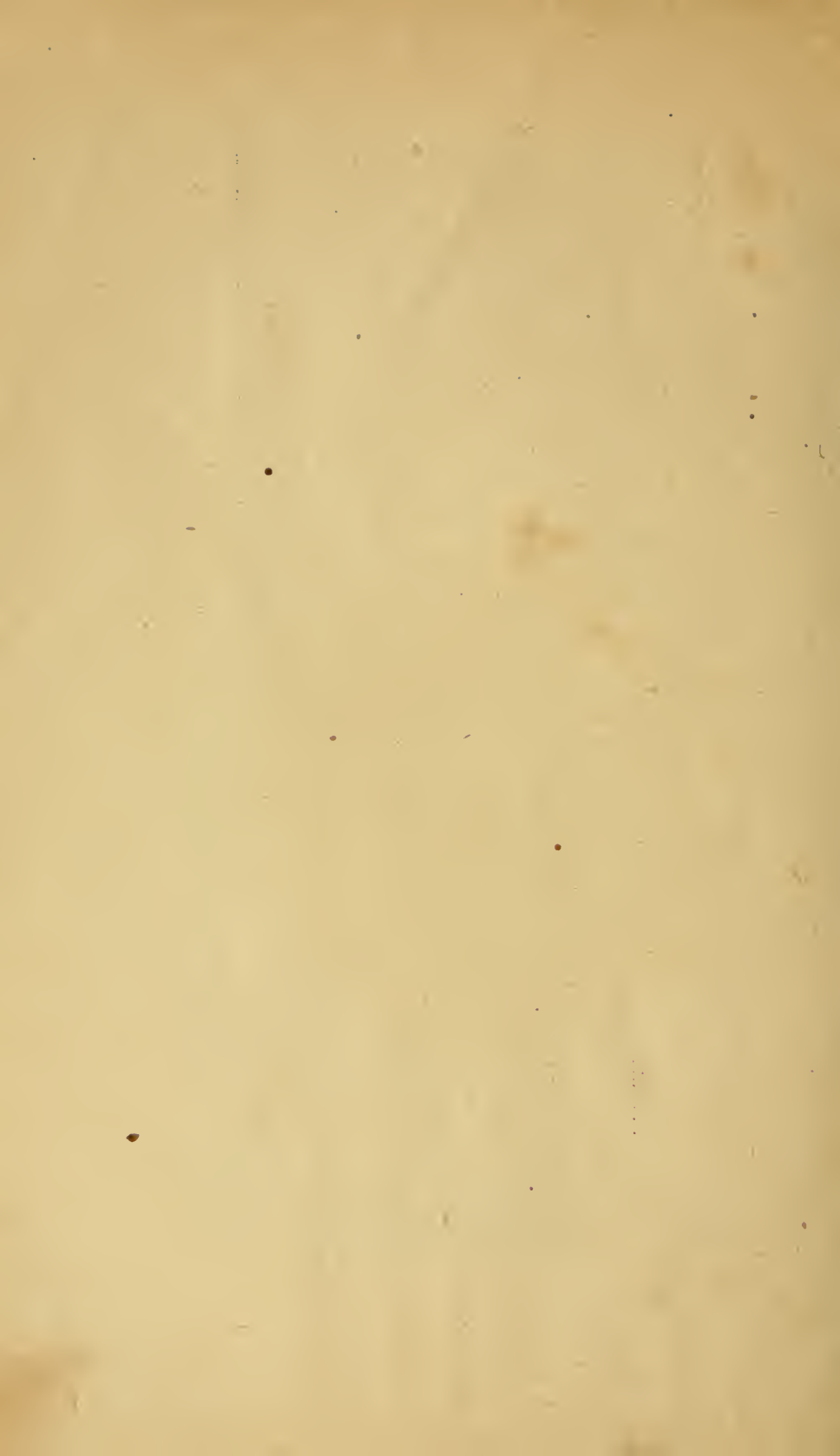
CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	Clerk's Post-office.	Members'hip last Reported.	Increase by Baptism.	Increase by Letter.	Increase by Experience.	Increase by Restoration.	Decrease by Letter.	Decrease by Exclusion.	Decrease by Erasure.	Decrease by Death.	Present Membership.	S. S. Officers and Teachers.	% S. Pupils.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.
Aimwell	Marengo ..	W. V. Vice	J. E. Etheridge.	Aimwell ..	137	2	5	...	...	7	...	...	...	135	...	...	4	1	1
Beaver Creek ..	Marengo ..	E. H. Perry	W. F. Johnson.	Linther's Store.	62	5	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	59	7	60	...	...	...
Bethel	Marengo ..	L. A. White	T. P. McIntosh.	McKinley ..	53	24	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	78	4	36	3	1	1
Bethlehem	Marengo ..	I. A. White	T. W. Barkley.	Oregon	37	14	2	3	1	4	...	10	...	63	4	56	...	1	1
Canaan	Wilcox ..	J. B. Powell	J. L. Holloman.	Arlington ..	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	2	...	...
Catherine	Wilcox ..	W. H. DeWitt ..	J. T. Rust	Catherine ..	10	5	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	...
Concord	Dallas ..	T. W. Hart	J. M. Thomas.	Safford	63	...	3	...	...	6	...	...	...	38	...	...	...	...	...
Flatwood's Chapel.	Marengo ..	W. V. Vice	S. C. Parker ..	London	41	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	...	1	...	...
Goose Creek	Marengo ..	W. V. Vice	J. V. Surgutier.	Lamson	41	5	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	44	...	...	5	...	...
Indian Springs ..	Marengo ..	W. A. Parker ..	C. H. Nittler ..	Shiloh	12	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...
Hills	Marengo ..	W. H. DeWitt ..	J. D. Smith ..	Sweet Water.	54	...	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	52	...	...	...	...	...
Judson	Marengo ..	J. M. Kaitlin ..	J. E. Hecker ..	Linden	49	1	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	52	5	30	...	...	1
Myrtlewood	Marengo ..	E. H. Perry	J. E. Tucker ..	Myrtlewood ..	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	...	24	...	1
Nanafalia	Marengo ..	J. M. Kaitlin ..	A. G. Westbrook.	Nanafalia ..	112	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	107	3	19	3	...	...
Pisgah	Wilcox ..	H. Adams	W. B. Shamberger.	Yellow Bluff.	43	...	...	...	...	18	1	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...
Providence	Marengo ..	W. H. DeWitt ..	...	...	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rehoboth	Wilcox ..	W. H. DeWitt ..	S. W. Compton.	Shiloh	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shiloh	Marengo ..	J. M. Kaitlin ..	J. L. Daggsdrill.	Shiloh	105	6	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	110	6	42	2	...	...
Spring Hill	Marengo ..	J. M. Kaitlin ..	J. L. Daggsdrill.	Old Spring Hill.	78	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	19	...	...	1	...	...
Union Grove	Marengo ..	J. A. Huckabee.	J. B. Williamson.	Moss	78	4	1	1	1	4	...	...	...	2	6	40	2	...	...
Total	...	...	...	...	994	66	32	4	4	66	5	10	11	986	42	323	...	...	...

Name of Church organized during year: Catherine.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1891.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.			Foreign Missions.			State Missions.			Indigent Ministers			Ministerial Education—Howard College.			Minutes.			Howard College (Building)			S. S. Benevolence.			S. S. Expenses.			Women's Society—Home Missions.			Women's Society—Foreign Missions.			Women's Society—Pastorium.			Pastor's Salary.			Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, etc.			Value of Chapel and Parsonage					
	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢	\$	¢	¢						
Alnwell.....																																																
Beaver Creek.....																																																
Bethel.....																																																
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Canaan.....																																																
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Goose Creek.....																																																
Hills.....																																																
Judson.....																																																
Linden.....																																																
Myrtlewood.....																																																
Nimrod.....																																																
Nimrod.....																																																
Placid.....																																																
Rehoboth.....																																																
Shiloh.....																																																
Spring Hill.....																																																
Union Grove.....																																																
Total.....	\$	33	43	35	02		\$	85	95	\$	1	00	\$	71	75	\$	15	00	\$	21	05	\$	100	00	\$	2	50	\$	8	50	\$	29	00	\$	5	50	\$	75	00	\$	92	50	\$	199	38	\$	6150	01

Name and Post-office of Moderator: W. B. Jackson, McKinley. Name and Post-office of Clerk: J. E. Hecker, Linden. Session of 1892 to be held with Bethlehem church, Murengo county, on Friday before 3rd Sabbath in August, 1892.
 Contributed by Sunday-school Convention at Linden, for State Missions, \$9 70.
 Con tributed by Association at Concord church, for Howard College building, \$324 50.
 Collection and pledges on Sunday at Association, for Missions, \$100 00.





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